

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01174 070931Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 OMB-01 /078 W  
-----093303 072123Z /73

R 070523Z JUN 78  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6287  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1174

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, IZ  
SUBJECT: KURDISH ACTIVITY INCREASES

REF: (A) USDAO ANKARA IR 6 898 0353 78,  
(B) BAGHDAD 884, (C) BAGHDAD 726 (ALL NOTAL).

1. TURKISH COUNSELOR STATES THAT KURDS LOYAL TO JALAL TALABANI AND RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM DAMASCUS ARE NOW OPERATING IN SMALL GROUPS IN RUGGED MOUNTAINOUS AREAS ALONG TURKISH BORDER AREAS. PREVIOUSLY THEY TENDED TO OPERATE AS INDIVIDUAL SNIPERS.

2. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD REPORTS THAT THERE WAS A FULL DAY OF FIGHTING BETWEEN KURDS AND IRAQIS IN THE CITY OF SULAIMANIYA DURING THE LAST WEEK OF MAY. IN WHAT MAY HAVE STARTED AS A PERSONAL QUARREL, THERE WAS A RAPID EXPANSION OF FIGHTING SUGGESTING THAT THE SITUATION WAS RIPE FOR EXPLOITATION BY KURDISH DISSIDENTS. IT IS GENERALLY THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT MAIN TROUBLE SPOTS ARE FURTHER NORTH.

3. SECURITY PROBLEMS ARE ALSO SUGGESTED BY LAST  
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WEEK'S REFUSAL BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF REQUEST BY FOREIGN DIPLOMAT TO TRAVEL TO THE SUMMER RESORT OF SALAHUDDIN. THIS WAS ONE POINT IN KURDISH AREA WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN OPEN TO DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL.

4. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HAS PICKED UP FACT THAT A CLANDESTINE VOICE OF IRAQI DURDISTAN IS BROADCASTING FOR SHORT PERIODS

IN THE EVENINGS. SYRIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR SHRUGGED OFF BUT DID NOT DENY THAT IT COULD BE LOCATED SOMEWHERE ON SYRIAN SIDE OF LONG DESOLATE BORDER WITH IRAQ.

5. MOST LOCAL DIPLOMATS AND THOSE FEW IRAQIS WHO WILL DISCUSS IT THINK THAT FOLLOWERS OF JALAL TALABANI ARE MAIN SOURCE OF PRESENT TROUBLES IN KURDISH AREA. ONE EXCEPTION IS SYRIAN AMBASSADOR WHO ARGUED THAT TALABANI AND BY EXTENSION DAMASCUS ARE NOT PLAYING A ROLE IN KURDISH DISSIDENCE AT THIS TIME. HE POINTS FINGER AT KURDS LOYAL TO MUSTAFA BARZANI AND HINTS AT IRANIAN SUPPORT. WE FIND THIS AN UNCONVINCING EFFORT TO SHIFT BLAME FROM DAMASCUS TO TEHRAN. WHILE IRAQI TOLERANCE OF IRANIAN SHIA DISSIDENTS LIKE AYATOLLA AL-KHOMEINI MIGHT BE ANNOYING TO IRAN, WE HAVE SEEN NO REAL SIGN THAT IRAQI-IRANIAN DETENTE IS BREAKING DOWN. BOTH SIDES HAVE TOO MUCH TO LOSE. RELATIONS BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE AT A LEVEL WHERE MUTUAL PROVOCATIONS HAVE BECOME NEARLY ROUTINE AND, IN A SENSE, ACCEPTABLE. IRAQI REGIME PROBABLY EXPECTS THAT SYRIAN BROTHERS WILL PERIODICALLY STIR UP THE KURDS IN RETURN FOR IRAQ'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO ANTI-REGIME ELEMENTS WITHIN SYRIA.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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